

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

## JANUARY 2004



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development

### Southeast Unemployment Rates Increase in December

**Walworth County's** unemployment rate increased by three-tenths of a percentage point to 3.7 percent; the lowest rate of the three regional counties. December's rate is down considerably compared to last December's 4.6 percent clip. Compared to December 2002, Walworth County has over 1,100 more employed residents and over 400 fewer unemployed.

By December, the reduction of (warmer season) seasonal employment in Walworth has wound down and the monthly fluctuations to total industry employment have become relatively subdued. December's total industry employment showed a decrease of 500 jobs, in which the reduction was more acute in services-providing rather than goods-producing industries. This 500-job decrease is not out of line for December employment figures, which usually show some degree of decline. Construction employment showed the largest industry decline with about a 200 fewer jobs since November. Annually, Walworth County fared a little better with a net loss of 200 jobs compared to December 2002. Small employment gains were seen in trade employment, specifically retail trade, and in education and health services.

The **Racine MSA** not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in December was 6.7 percent. December's rate was three-tenths of a point higher than in November, yet was a significantly large decrease to the tune of 1.1 percent points from last December as every southeast WDA county's unemployment rate was down dramatically compared to December 2002. In comparison to last December, Racine County shows almost 2,500 more employed and over 900 fewer unemployed.

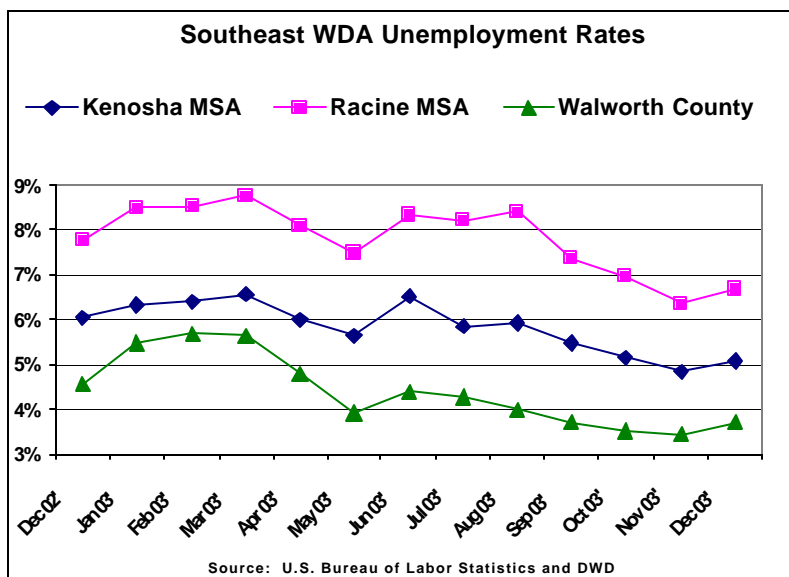
The monthly job count in Racine County shows 400 fewer jobs in December. The largest sector employment loss was in construction employment, down 300 jobs, which is likely seasonal in nature and a typical decrease in December for Racine. The remaining industry employment performance was a bit flat with a surprising reduction in the number of retail trade jobs (-100 jobs). Racine County does not usually see huge strides in this sector's employment in December, but this month's loss would

mean that the county did not bulk up for the holiday season as the October through December retail trade numbers show a combined loss of 300 jobs. On a brighter note, manufacturing employment gained 100 jobs. Six of the 12 months in 2003 showed manufacturing increases.

Annually, Racine County measured a net total of 200 more jobs than in December 2003; small growth in the number of jobs, but it is the 15<sup>th</sup> straight month to show no job loss. The largest industry gain was in education and health services with 700 more jobs or seven percent growth. Manufacturing showed 200 more jobs in December as eight of the 12 months of 2003 showed annual growth in manufacturing. Retail trade; and transportation, warehousing and utilities combined for an annual loss of 400 jobs. Racine County was the only southeast county to show overall job growth on an annual basis.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the

**Kenosha MSA** was 5.1 percent, which was an increase over the month of two-tenths of a point, though significantly lower than December 2002's rate of 6.1 percent. This is the fourth December in a row to show an increase from November's unemployment rate, but is the first December since 1997 to show an annual decrease. December 2003 labor force is still at a higher rate of unemployment compared to the December figures in the 1990s, which ran between 2.5 to four percent.



Kenosha's industry employment decreased over the month and year by 500 and 1,000 jobs, respectively. This is the fourth consecutive month to show an overall, annual job loss. Manufacturing has continued to be the heart of this deficit maintaining a decrease of about 800 jobs over the last few months. Government employment and education and health services employment showed losses of 300 jobs, each. The negative portion of this last sector was focused in education services as the health care industry shows no signs of slowing down as a growth industry. Retail trade showed the largest annual employment growth gaining 600 jobs over the year and has showed considerable growth in all of 2003; presently at its highest recorded levels of employment.

| <b>December 2003</b>  | <b>Wisconsin</b> | <b>Kenosha<br/>County/MSA</b> | <b>Racine<br/>County/MSA</b> | <b>Walworth<br/>County</b> | <b>Southeast WDA</b> | <b>City of<br/>Kenosha</b> | <b>City of<br/>Racine</b> |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>                                    | 3,068,558        | 82,540                        | 94,299                       | 53,670                     | 230,509              | 48,786                     | 39,253                    |
| Persons Employed  | 2,922,590        | 78,334                        | 87,999                       | 51,673                     | 218,006              | 45,805                     | 35,171                    |
| Persons Unemployed  | 145,968          | 4,206                         | 6,300                        | 1,997                      | 12,503               | 2,981                      | 4,082                     |
| Unemployment Rate   | 4.8%             | 5.1%                          | 6.7%                         | 3.7%                       | 5.4%                 | 6.1%                       | 10.4%                     |
| <b>Total jobs in all non-farm industries** (thousands)</b>      | 2,785.8          | 53.2                          | 80.2                         | 40.6                       | 174.0                |                            |                           |
| <b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>                                     | 623.9            | 12.0                          | 23.9                         | 10.1                       | 46.0                 |                            |                           |
| <b>Service Producing Jobs</b>                                   | 2,161.9          | 41.2                          | 56.3                         | 30.5                       | 128.0                |                            |                           |
| Construction, Mining and Natural Resources                      | 115.6            | 2.1                           | 3.7                          | 1.7                        | 7.5                  |                            |                           |
| All Manufacturing   | 508.3            | 9.9                           | 20.2                         | 8.4                        | 38.5                 |                            |                           |
| Total Trade   | 446.5            | 9.5                           | 12.5                         | 5.3                        | 27.3                 |                            |                           |
| Wholesale Trade   | 118.9            | 1.9                           | 3.0                          | xx                         | xx                   |                            |                           |
| Retail Trade  | 327.6            | 7.6                           | 9.5                          | xx                         | xx                   |                            |                           |
| Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities                       | 104.7            | 1.6                           | 1.8                          | 1.1                        | 4.5                  |                            |                           |
| Financial Activities  | 159.2            | 1.6                           | 2.6                          | 1.0                        | 5.2                  |                            |                           |
| Education and Health Services                                   | 371.5            | 7.6                           | 10.7                         | 4.1                        | 22.4                 |                            |                           |
| Leisure & Hospitality   | 232.2            | 5.7                           | 5.8                          | 6.9                        | 18.4                 |                            |                           |
| Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services | 430.0            | 6.2                           | 12.2                         | 4.4                        | 22.8                 |                            |                           |
| Information   | 50.8             | 0.4                           | 0.7                          | xx                         | xx                   |                            |                           |
| Professional and Business Services                              | 240.9            | 3.1                           | 6.7                          | xx                         | xx                   |                            |                           |
| Other Services  | 138.3            | 2.7                           | 4.8                          | xx                         | xx                   |                            |                           |
| All Government  | 417.8            | 9.0                           | 10.7                         | 7.7                        | 27.4                 |                            |                           |
| <b>Change from November 2003</b>                                |                  |                               |                              |                            |                      |                            |                           |
| <b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>                                    | -4,120           | -230                          | -30                          | -470                       | -720                 | -70                        | 10                        |
| Persons Employed  | -12,780          | -420                          | -330                         | -600                       | -1,350               | -240                       | -130                      |
| Persons Unemployed  | 8,660            | 190                           | 310                          | 130                        | 630                  | 180                        | 140                       |
| Unemployment Rate   | 0.3%             | 0.2%                          | 0.3%                         | 0.3%                       | 0.3%                 | 0.4%                       | 0.4%                      |
| <b>Total jobs in all non-farm industries** (thousands)</b>      | -9.8             | -0.5                          | -0.4                         | -0.5                       | -1.4                 |                            |                           |
| <b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>                                     | -9.0             | -0.2                          | -0.2                         | -0.2                       | -0.6                 |                            |                           |
| <b>Service Producing Jobs</b>                                   | -0.8             | -0.3                          | -0.2                         | -0.3                       | -0.8                 |                            |                           |
| Construction, Mining and Natural Resources                      | -8.5             | -0.2                          | -0.3                         | -0.2                       | -0.7                 |                            |                           |
| All Manufacturing   | -0.5             | 0.0                           | 0.1                          | 0.0                        | 0.1                  |                            |                           |
| Total Trade   | 3.0              | 0.1                           | -0.1                         | 0.0                        | 0.0                  |                            |                           |
| Wholesale Trade   | 0.9              | 0.0                           | 0.0                          | xx                         | xx                   |                            |                           |
| Retail Trade  | 2.1              | 0.1                           | -0.1                         | xx                         | xx                   |                            |                           |
| Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities                       | -0.5             | 0.0                           | 0.0                          | 0.0                        | 0.0                  |                            |                           |
| Financial Activities  | 0.3              | 0.0                           | -0.1                         | 0.0                        | -0.1                 |                            |                           |
| Education and Health Services                                   | -0.7             | -0.1                          | 0.1                          | -0.1                       | -0.1                 |                            |                           |
| Leisure & Hospitality   | -0.3             | 0.0                           | 0.0                          | -0.1                       | -0.1                 |                            |                           |
| Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services | -1.6             | -0.1                          | -0.1                         | -0.1                       | -0.3                 |                            |                           |
| Information   | 0.2              | 0.0                           | 0.0                          | xx                         | xx                   |                            |                           |
| Professional and Business Services                              | -3.9             | -0.1                          | -0.1                         | xx                         | xx                   |                            |                           |
| Other Services  | 2.1              | 0.0                           | 0.0                          | xx                         | xx                   |                            |                           |
| All Government  | -1.0             | -0.2                          | 0.0                          | -0.1                       | -0.3                 |                            |                           |
| <b>Change from December 2002</b>                                |                  |                               |                              |                            |                      |                            |                           |
| <b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>                                    | 63,830           | 200                           | 1,580                        | 720                        | 2,500                | 100                        | 260                       |
| Persons Employed  | 76,700           | 970                           | 2,490                        | 1,140                      | 4,600                | 570                        | 990                       |
| Persons Unemployed  | -12,870          | -770                          | -910                         | -420                       | -2,100               | -470                       | -740                      |
| Unemployment Rate   | -0.5%            | -1.0%                         | -1.1%                        | -0.9%                      | -1.0%                | 0.0%                       | -2.0%                     |
| <b>Total jobs in all non-farm industries** (thousands)</b>      | -0.9             | -1.0                          | 0.2                          | -0.2                       | -1.0                 |                            |                           |
| <b>Goods Producing Jobs</b>                                     | -20.0            | -0.9                          | 0.0                          | -0.2                       | -1.0                 |                            |                           |
| <b>Service Producing Jobs</b>                                   | 19.0             | -0.2                          | 0.1                          | 0.0                        | 0.0                  |                            |                           |
| Construction, Mining and Natural Resources                      | -6.4             | -0.1                          | -0.1                         | 0.0                        | -0.2                 |                            |                           |
| All Manufacturing   | -13.6            | -0.8                          | 0.2                          | -0.2                       | -0.8                 |                            |                           |
| Total Trade   | 8.2              | 0.5                           | -0.2                         | 0.2                        | 0.4                  |                            |                           |
| Wholesale Trade   | 4.0              | 0.0                           | 0.0                          | xx                         | xx                   |                            |                           |
| Retail Trade  | 4.2              | 0.6                           | -0.2                         | xx                         | xx                   |                            |                           |
| Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities                       | -1.1             | -0.1                          | -0.2                         | -0.1                       | -0.4                 |                            |                           |
| Financial Activities  | 5.8              | 0.0                           | 0.1                          | 0.0                        | 0.1                  |                            |                           |
| Education and Health Services                                   | 10.6             | -0.3                          | 0.7                          | 0.1                        | 0.6                  |                            |                           |
| Leisure & Hospitality   | 0.8              | 0.0                           | -0.2                         | 0.0                        | -0.2                 |                            |                           |
| Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services | 2.7              | -0.1                          | -0.1                         | -0.1                       | -0.2                 |                            |                           |
| Information   | 0.2              | 0.0                           | -0.1                         | xx                         | xx                   |                            |                           |
| Professional and Business Services                              | 0.3              | -0.1                          | 0.0                          | xx                         | xx                   |                            |                           |
| Other Services  | 2.2              | 0.0                           | 0.0                          | xx                         | xx                   |                            |                           |
| All Government  | -7.9             | -0.3                          | -0.1                         | 0.0                        | -0.4                 |                            |                           |

\* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. \*\*Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates. Industry employment figures are in thousands and are rounded. "XX" indicates that data is suppressed and has been aggregated with other industries. **Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total**

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